



Antiterrorism Historical Vignette

Weatherman Underground Organization

Attack Summary: Between 1 March 1971 to 28 January 1975, a group known as the Weatherman Underground Organization (WUO) conducted seven bomb attacks within the United States and was suspected of many more. The bombings included the U.S. Capitol, State Department, Pentagon, other government and military facilities (including an ROTC building and planned attack at Fort Dix), and numerous police stations resulting in the death of five police officers. The WUO, designated a domestic terrorist group, declared war on America with the intent to influence political outcomes and cause the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Vietnam. The WUO originated in 1969 as a left wing faction of the Students for a Democratic Society. In 1974, the group published a manifesto titled "Prairie Fire" which called for the violent overthrow of the U.S. government and the establishment of a socialist dictatorship. Following the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam, the group broke up and the FBI gradually lost track of the remaining members.

Key Lessons:

- Today, threats abound from various domestic-based terrorist and extremist groups which espouse secular, political, anarchist, anti-globalization, environmental, human and animal rights agendas. The activities and actions of these groups can spill over directly or indirectly to U.S. military forces.
- The combined influence of U.S. based extremist groups as well as radical ideological influence from foreign threats can affect our security environments and encourage both lone actors (e.g., Unabomber) external to the Army as well as personnel within the Army community (e.g., Fort Hood shootings).

AT Principles:

- Continuously assess the external and internal threat, changes in tactics, and new and emerging groups, to include those not traditionally seen as hostile to Army forces.
- All types of domestic extremist groups warrant monitoring as complex political, domestic and international issues give rise to new threats.
- Develop partnerships with civilian organizations to assess and maintain continuous awareness of domestic threat intelligence.

Notes for Commanders:

- Establish liaison with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies, regional Joint Terrorism Task Forces and state fusion centers which have the appropriate legal authority to monitor U.S. based threat groups.
- Maintain awareness of broad social and environmental issues for wave changes which could affect Army operations and community.
- Remain aware of propaganda or literature in and around unit areas that may indicate support for domestic extremist groups or radical ideologies.

Army Antiterrorism Principles: Assess, Detect, Defend, Warn, Recover

Always Ready. Always Alert.

Because someone is depending on you.